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The Progressive Farmer.

CLARENCE H. POE, - - - Editor and Manager.
B. W. KILGORE, }
C. W. BURKETT, } - - - Agricultural Editors

A LITTLE LETTER TO THE SAMPLE COPY READER.

My Dear Sir:—If this number of The Progressive Farmer has come to you marked "Sample Copy," it is because we are sending copies this week to a considerable number of progressive North Carolina farmers not now on our subscription list, and you are one of these. We mailed you one other copy some time ago and you doubtless know something of our paper—that it is a North Carolina farm paper, especially adapted to North Carolina climate, crops, soils and conditions, and therefore a paper that no progressive North Carolina farmer can afford to be without.

All of the men on The Progressive Farmer staff were raised on the farm, have had practical experience in farm work, and most of the staff are running North Carolina farms now. Quite probably you have seen our Prof. B. W. Kilgore at some Farmers' Institute. He has managed the State test and experimental farms for years, and nobody in the South knows more about soils and fertilizers than he. And our Dr. C. W. Burkett, Agriculturist of the North Carolina Experiment Station,—well, it's worth a year in an agricultural college just to go over Dr. Burkett's A. & M. College farm in summer and see the improved methods of cultivation, rotation, ditching, seed selection, fertilizing, etc., etc., that bring about the big crops he gets every year.

But these are only a few features. Scores of the most progressive and successful farmers and stockmen in this and adjoining States write regularly for our columns, while our literary, household and news features make The Progressive Farmer a paper that you and your family simply can't afford to be without.

And this sample copy is sent you just because we believe that when you learn of our remarkable subscription offer, you will no longer try to do without our paper. This is the offer—and it is the most liberal The Progressive Farmer management has ever made:

In clubs of three or more, The Progressive Farmer will be sent to new subscribers from now till January 1, 1905—nearly nine months—for only 50 cents. And when any man tries to get a club of three but fails, the paper will be sent to one or two names at the same rate. This offer is good till May 10, 1904.

Nor is this all. Fifty cents for the rest of the year is attractive enough—but we add to that our standing offer to refund your money if you are not satisfied. And all we ask is that you ask two of your neighbors to share this 50-cent offer with you; if you fail to get them, send on your own half dollar, and The Progressive Farmer will be a regular visitor to your home from now till January 1, 1905. Hoping that we shall hear from you promptly, I am,

CLARENCE H. POE,
Editor and Manager.

FERTILIZER FOR PEANUTS.

The time of year for planting peanuts is approaching. The peanut belongs to the class of plants which are able to obtain a portion of their nitrogen from the air by the aid of the bacteria which live in the nodules on their roots. In nearly all, if not all peanut soils, in regions where this plant grows, the nodules or enlargements are found on its roots. Where the soils are acid, or sour, or where peanuts have not been grown before, the nodules containing the bacteria may not develop, though soils that are sufficiently sour to prevent this are not usually used for growing this crop. An examination of the roots of the plants will determine this. The nodules of enlargements are nearly all located on the tap root below the lateral roots which bear the peanuts. This tap root is usually almost entirely covered with the small nodules and it is in these enlargements that the bacteria are found and which obtain the nitrogen from the air.

In considering fertilizers for this crop it is necessary to take into account this power of the peanut to obtain a portion, at least, of the most costly part of fertilizers from the air. As a consequence, on soils in fair and a high state of cultivation no nitrogen, or ammonia, is needed in the fertilizer applied to the peanuts. On every poor soils, where the growth of the vine is small and not sufficient to bear a good crop of nuts, some nitrogen-furnishing material is desirable to aid the plant, especially in its first stage of growth, so that sufficient top may be produced to carry enough roots to bear a good crop of nuts. Except on the poorer kinds of land referred to, nitrogen-furnishing materials in the fertilizer will go largely to the production of vine, without corresponding increase in the nuts, the main consideration for which the crop is grown. On land in fair to high state of cultivation the following mixture is suggested:

Acid phosphate	200 lbs.
Kainit	100 lbs.

On poorer land, where some nitrogen is needed to produce some vines, the following mixture is recommended:

Acid phosphate	1,000 lbs.
Kainit	600 lbs.
Cottonseed meal	400 lbs.

Total 2,000 lbs.

This mixture will contain: available phosphoric acid, 7.5 per cent; ammonia, 1.6 per cent; potash, 4 per cent. Twenty-five pounds of muriate of potash may replace one hundred pounds of kainit in either of these mixtures with practically equal results. Two hundred to four hundred pounds of these mixtures, in the drill, before planting, will give good results.

The main need of the peanut, especially on good, peanut land, is for phosphoric acid and potash. In addition to these, a liberal quantity of lime, either as agricultural lime or as plaster, should be used where the land has not been manured.

B. W. KILGORE.

DR. FREEMAN'S TALKS.

V.—How to Keep the Land from Washing.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

I am glad to see so many farmers doing something in some way to save their lands from washing away. It is only of late years in this section that farmers have made any effort along this line. This is one of the very best things one can do—keep the land from washing. On my father's farm the ditch with a slight fall was tried for many years, but it did but little good.

There is but one system, and only one that will do. That is to terrace your land. The terrace must be on a perfect level at all points. These terraces must be three feet apart or a grade of three feet from one terrace to the other. The rows then must be run on the same level, beginning at the lower terrace and running the rows with it until you get half up to the other terrace. Then begin at the upper one and run back so as to finish up the short rows between the terraces.

With this system and deep plowing, you can save your land.

The thing to do is to hold the water on the land just where it falls. Terracing and deep plowing will do this, and no other plan can. The water must not get together, but be taken up by the soil where it falls. If it moves it carries plant food with it.

What you want is to save your land and liquid plant food. Then keep the particles of water from getting together and hold it where it falls until the soil has taken it up. Terracing and deep plowing will do this, and nothing else. There are very few rains that will go over a terrace ten inches high.

This plan I have found to be a perfect success in saving the land from washing and rapidly improving it. This plan has done wonders for Georgia farmers.

H. F. FREEMAN.

Wilson Co. N. C.

Blake Johnston Reappears.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

I have been lying back picking my flint. Every time I went to fire some good writer would take up my subject and handle it so well I felt like there was no room for me.

I hear them say that clodhoppers have no business to meddle with legislation, but it seems to me that it is time to put a stop to some things that are going on in the country. I know men that call themselves farmers that make a dive for town six days in the week—start as soon as they get their breakfast and stay until night, and leave little boys at home wrestling with corn and cotton planters all day long. Now, if it is wrong for children under twelve years olds to work in mills, is it not wrong for these little farm children to work to keep up leafing fathers? A fellow came by where I was at work Tuesday evening and said that he was going to town to get a plug of tobacco. Why he did not get it when he was there Saturday evening I don't know.

I saw a fellow plowing a piece of ground the other day that had been in cotton every year for ten years, and his plow was making a fuss like a coal burner. And I told him if he would rotate and sow peas that his ground would stop freezing in August.

Chickens ten cents a pound; eggs seventeen and one-half cents; meal eighty cents; peas one dollar and twenty-five cents; pea-vine hay one dollar a hundred—retail prices.

BLAKE JOHNSTON.

Gaston Co., N. C.